



DAWN *LIVE!* FOR EDs DATA ON DEMAND

Fact Sheet #7 March 2005

"We joined DAWN because it offered important benefits for our hospital. One benefit is DAWN LIVE! to help with quality assurance. And, we can use DAWN information to work with our community."

—Long Island hospital administrator

WHAT IS DAWN LIVE!?

DAWN *LIVE!* is a secure, Internet-based query system that gives DAWN members access to the data submitted for their facility. Authorized staff can use DAWN *LIVE!* to monitor the drug-related cases seen in their ED. All data in the system are de-identified.

WHERE CAN I FIND IT?

DAWN *LIVE!* is easily accessed via the Internet using a confidential username and password on a secure website. You can try out the demonstration version at <https://demo.dawninfo.net/login.asp>

WHO CAN USE IT?

Authorized users are named by their facility in the DAWN participation agreement. Additional staff may be added by the facility administrator at any time. Westat assigns usernames and passwords when authorized users are named. All users must agree to use the data within the confidentiality restrictions required by Federal law.

HOW IS IT USED?

Most authorized users track their drug-related ED cases on a regular basis. For example,

- A Medical Safety Officer in Maryland is using DAWN *LIVE!* to identify the chief complaints associated with adverse reactions. She shares the de-identified results monthly with other ED staff to improve patient care.
- In a community hospital near Atlanta, an ED Director is tracking cases involving methamphetamine use through DAWN *LIVE!* She is working with other community leaders to develop prevention strategies.

WHAT IS A DAWN CASE?

A DAWN case is any ED visit related to recent drug use. The types of cases and the drugs that may be involved in each type are:

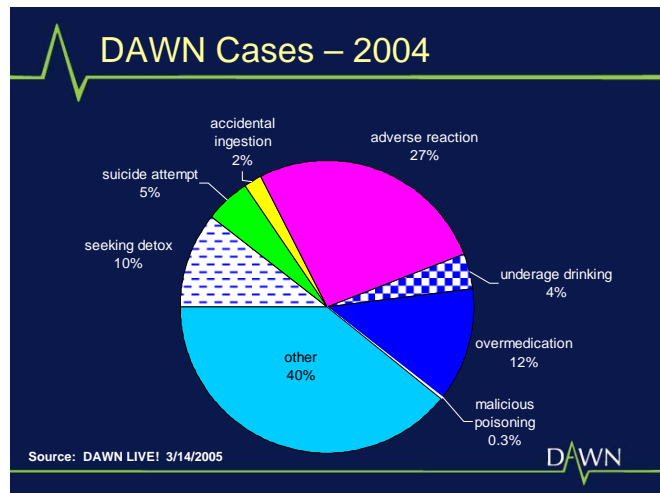
Type of DAWN case	Drugs involved
1. Suicide attempt	Any drug ^(1,2)
2. Seeking detox	Any drug ^(1,2)
3. Alcohol only (age< 21)	Alcohol (no other drug)
4. Adverse reaction	Rx, OTC, alcohol ⁽³⁾ (no illicit drugs)
5. Overmedication	Rx, OTC, alcohol ⁽³⁾ (no illicit drugs)
6. Malicious poisoning	Any drug ^(1,3)
7. Accidental ingestion	Any drug ^(1,3)
8. Other (inc. drug abuse)	Any drug ^(1,3)

⁽¹⁾ Illicit drugs, prescription (Rx), over-the-counter (OTC)

⁽²⁾ Alcohol in combination with other drug(s), alcohol alone (age<21)

⁽³⁾ Alcohol in combination with other drugs

The following pie chart depicts the mix of case types reported to DAWN for 2004. About 350 hospitals reported more than 300,000 cases in 2004.



WHAT KIND OF DATA ARE AVAILABLE?

Authorized staff can use DAWN *LIVE!* to monitor the types of drug-related cases being treated in their ED. For example, they can look at the drugs involved, patient characteristics, presenting complaints, and patient disposition.

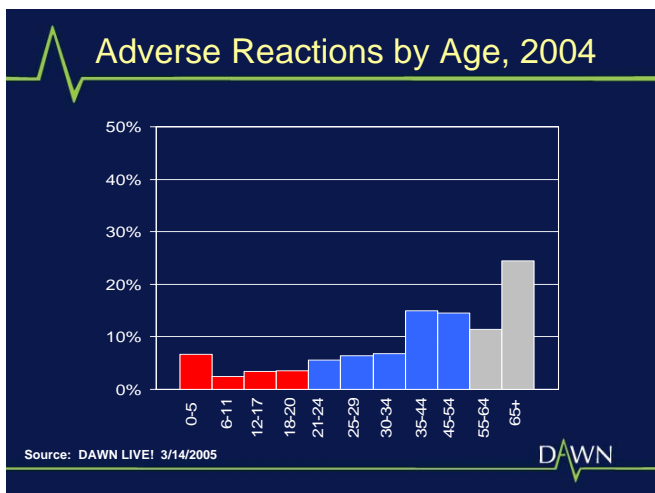
Staff who use DAWN *LIVE!* see the data in “real-time.” Since all DAWN cases are reported electronically, they are immediately available in de-identified form via DAWN *LIVE!*

DAWN *LIVE!* users can compare their own hospital's data to data for all hospitals reporting to DAWN:

- In the metropolitan areas with at least four hospitals reporting
- In the U.S.

Example:

The following chart shows the age distribution for adverse reaction cases reported to DAWN for 2004. Data from DAWN *LIVE!* show that elderly patients (age 65 and over) are disproportionately represented in adverse reaction cases. DAWN *LIVE!* users can explore other characteristics of adverse reaction cases, including the drugs involved and chief complaints.



*“DAWN *LIVE!* was so easy to use. And we were able to get a quick picture of this month's ED cases.”*

—ER nurse manager

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

You will receive your own username and password from Westat, along with the website address for DAWN *LIVE!* Just follow these steps to start using DAWN *LIVE!*

1. Use Internet Explorer to go to the DAWN *LIVE!* website at the address provided.
2. Enter your username and password; then click **Login**.
3. Read the “Notice of Responsibilities” for users of the data; then click **Accept**.

HOW DO I CREATE A TABLE?

After you login and accept the responsibilities of a DAWN *LIVE!* user, a one-page query screen will appear. Just follow the instructions at the top of the page to create a table of your facility's DAWN data. Here are the steps and a few hints:

1. If you want **comparison data**, select a metro area or national (all DAWN).
2. Select the **type(s) of case(s)** you want to include.

Hint: DAWN cases are diverse, so consider carefully the types of cases to include.

3. Select **what you want to count** – cases or drugs.
4. If you opted to count drugs, select the **drug(s)** and then select **tabulate by** and a level of detail (categories, drugs, or details) for the output.

*Hint: To choose a specific drug, select **drugs** or **details** under **Show drugs by**. Then, click on **Change List** to see the more detailed list.*

5. Select a **time period** – monthly, semi-annual, or annual.
6. If you want patient **demographics**, **case characteristics**, or **other characteristics**, select the ones of interest.
7. Click **Submit** to generate your table.

WHAT IF I NEED HELP?

Click on [helpful hints](#) for more guidance.

Click on [?](#) for context-sensitive help.